

Chemicals and Pesticides Management at EPA: 2020 Update



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Guiding Principles

- Protecting public health and the environment
- Improving engagement with stakeholders
- Increasing transparency and certainty in the work that we do
- Reducing unnecessary burden in our work

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Protecting Public Health: First 10 Chemicals

First 10 Chemicals Undergoing Risk Evaluation	
1-Bromopropane	Methylene Chloride
1,4-Dioxane	N-Methylpyrrolidone
Asbestos	Perchloroethylene
Carbon Tetrachloride	Pigment Violet-29
HBCD	Trichloroethylene

Protecting Public Health: Next 20 Chemicals

- EPA has been working hard on the next 20 chemicals to undergo risk evaluation at the same time we have been focused on the first 10 chemicals
- September 2020: Issued final scope documents containing the uses to be included in the upcoming risk evaluations
- EPA is now developing draft risk evaluations for public comment

Protecting Public Health: PBT Chemicals

- June 2019: Proposed rule to reduce exposures to five persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) chemicals.
- These chemicals build up in the environment over time and can therefore have potential risks for exposed populations including the general population, consumers, susceptible subpopulations.
- Working on finalizing rules in the near term.

Protecting Public Health: New Active Ingredients

- Registering new active ingredients – providing lower risk alternatives
- Registered 16 active ingredient in fiscal year 2020, some examples include:
 - Nootkatone (biopesticide)
 - Alphachloralose (novel rodenticide)
 - NSPW nanosilver (materials preservative)

Protecting Public Health: Registration Review Actions

- Review each registered pesticide every 15 years
- First round began in October 2017; must be completed by October 1, 2022
- 725 "cases" encompassing 1,100 pesticide active ingredients

Protecting Public Health: Registration Review Actions - Atrazine

- September: Interim Decisions for triazines (atrazine, propazine, and simazine) finalizing measures to protect human health and mitigate potential ecological risks
- Mitigation measures will go into effect when EPA and states approve the new labels

Protecting Public Health: Registration Review Actions - Chlorpyrifos

- September: EPA published the ecological and revised human health draft risk assessments
- December: The Proposed Interim Decision was made available to the public

Protecting Public Health: Registration Review Actions - Glyphosate

- February: Interim Decision which included mitigation and label changes
- No risks of concern to human health when used in accordance with the label
- Not a carcinogen
- Human health findings consistent with science reviews by many other countries and other federal agencies
- November: Released draft biological evaluation for public review and comment

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Protecting Public Health: Registration Review Actions – Rodenticides and Pyrethroids

Rodenticides:

- Draft risk assessments completed this fiscal year
- Proposed Interim Decision in early 2021
- Interim Decision in late 2021

Pyrethroids:

- Numerous Proposed Interim Decisions published throughout 2020 as well as some Interim Decisions
- Remaining Interim Decisions in 2021

Protecting Public Health: Registration Review Actions - Neonicotinoids

- February: Proposed Interim Decision for the neonicotinoids (acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam) with proposed new measures to reduce potential ecological risks, particularly to pollinators
- Working with industry on developing and implementing stewardship and best management practices
- After reviewing public input, Interim Decision in 2021

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Improving Engagement with Stakeholders: TSCA and FIFRA

TSCA

- Transparent, proactive, and meaningful education, outreach, and engagement throughout the risk management process
- Input, expertise, and feedback from stakeholders now – early in the process – will help shape the path forward
- Opportunities include public comment periods, webinars and required consultations with state and local governments, tribes, environmental justice communities, and small businesses

FIFRA

- Invite public comments at several points in the registration and registration review process
- Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC)
- FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP)
- Field tours
- Discussions/trainings
- Spanish Translation Guide for Pesticide Labeling

Improving Engagement with Stakeholders: Pollinators

- September: EPA and USDA co-hosted the Pollinator State of Science Workshop webinar to identify outcome-based strategies to mitigate the potential impact of multiple stressors influencing pollinator declines
- 300+ stakeholders in attendance, the webinar increased public awareness and engaged stakeholders
- Beginning in March 2020, EPA hosted a series of 5 public webinars that reached an audience of thousands, highlighting ongoing work to promote pollinator health and habitat

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Increasing Transparency and Certainty in the Work That We Do: New Chemicals

- EPA has reviewed thousands of new chemical submissions and reduced the number of chemicals under review for over 90 days
- Goal is a 90-day review period in the New Chemicals Program
- Follow the progress of a submission through the review process using the New Case Tracker

Increasing transparency and certainty in the work that we do: Endangered Species Act (ESA) – Revised Method

- Working with federal partners to improve the consultation process required under Section 7 of the ESA
- EPA also hosted an Environmental Modeling Public Meeting (EMPM) in October 2019 on "Incorporation of Pesticide Usage Data into Environmental Exposure and Ecological Risk Assessments."
- Increased opportunities for stakeholder feedback including meeting on incorporation of pesticide usage data in ecological risk assessments
- March: EPA developed and released the Revised Method for Conducting National Level Listed Species Biological Evaluations of Conventional Pesticides ²⁹

Increasing transparency and certainty in the work that we do: Endangered Species Act (ESA) – Revised Method

- The Revised Method was used to conduct draft Biological Evaluations (BEs) for methomyl and carbaryl – also released in March with the Revised Method
- April: EPA hosted public webinar to present the draft BEs for carbaryl and methomyl
- Plan to issue the final BEs in early 2021 with response to comments
- June: Submitted second report to Congress highlighting process achieved to date

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Reducing Unnecessary Burden in our Work: Advancing Alternatives to Animal Testing

- In 2019, the EPA Administrator set ambitious goals to reduce animal testing, including eliminating all mammalian study requests and funding by 2035
- The strategic plan to reduce the use of chemical testing on vertebrate animals in the TSCA program supports this goal
- We've also released a list of acceptable New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) which we continue to make progress in implementing

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Reducing Unnecessary Burden in our Work: Revising TSCA Fees

- New rulemaking process to update the TSCA Fees Rule – the goal is to resolve implementation issues raised by stakeholders
- Proposed rule would look at potential exemptions to the fees EPA charges manufacturers when it initiates risk evaluations
- Released final list of companies subject to fees for the next 20 TSCA risk evaluations
- Due to the public health emergency, we are allowing needed flexibility to businesses for payment of fees

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Reducing Unnecessary Burden in responding to public health emergencies: COVID-19

- Review and approve products that kill SARS-CoV-2 on surfaces
- January: triggered use of the Emerging Viral Pathogen guidance, allowing a pathway to make off-label claims for SARS-CoV-2 if they have data showing their products are effective against harder to kill viruses
- Expedited processes for reviewing new products and amendments to existing products
- List N includes over 500 products approved for use against SARS-CoV-2
- Pathway for application of disinfectants using electrostatic sprayers

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Reducing Unnecessary Burden in responding to public health emergencies: COVID-19

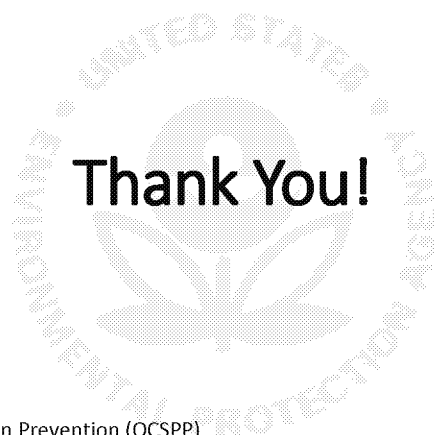
- Addressed supply chain issues with flexibilities:
 - For certain active and inert ingredients, companies can switch suppliers without waiting for EPA approval
 - Flexibilities for manufacturers by temporarily allowing companies to notify EPA of certain formulation and manufacturing facility changes and immediately release the product for sale without waiting for EPA approval
- August: FIFRA Section 18 emergency exemption to Texas to allow American Airlines and Total Orthopedics Sports & Spine to use SurfaceWise2, a surface coating that inactivates viruses and bacteria within 2 hours of application and continues to work against them for up to 7 days

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Reducing Unnecessary Burden in responding to public health emergencies: COVID-19

- October: EPA released guidance for companies seeking to register products with “long-lasting” or “residual” efficacy
- EPA issued guidance to inform employers of flexibilities available under the Worker Protection Standard to allow continued protection for employees and agricultural production
- EPA issued temporary guidance that outlines approaches to address unavailability of required respiratory protection and respiratory fit testing
- State, tribal and federal certifying authorities may need to make temporary changes to their existing pesticide applicator certification programs
- EPA issued temporary guidance to provide flexibilities that meet needs of applicators and the requirements of the Certification of Pesticide Applicators rule

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Thank You!

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